

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01 /059 W

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O P 281130Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9107

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 1747

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY OF THE KC DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 1634

1. SUMMARY: A DOWN STREAM MEKONG RIVER CONVOY FROM PHNOM PENH CROSSED THE BORDER INTO SOUTH VIETNAM JANUARY 28. THE SITUATION AT KAMPOT APPEARS TO HAVE STABILIZED. FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT DAY, THE LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY AROUND PHNOM PENH WAS QUITE LOW. END SUMMARY.

2. A MEKONG CONVOY, COMPOSED OF FIVE CARGO VESSELS, ONE TANKER AND SEVEN TUGS DEPARTED PHNOM PENH FOR THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE BORDER LATE JANUARY 27. TWO OF THE TUGS EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTIES AND RETURNED TO PHNOM PENH. THE CONVOY TOOK SEVERAL ATTACKS BY FIRE BETWEEN PHNOM PENH AND NEAK LUONG BUT FROM THAT POINT ON PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY. IT CROSSED THE BORDER SHORTLY BEFORE NOON JANUARY 28. THE CONVOY CARRIED WITH IT FOURTEEN OF THE SHIELD BARGES WHICH HAVE PROVEN SO ESSENTIAL IN PROTECTING TUGS AND BARGES FROM KC FIRE. IT ALSO PICKED UP 3 BEACHED SHIELD BARGES BELOW NEAK LUONG. THESE WILL
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BE USED ON THE NEXT UP-RIVER CONVOY.

3. ABOUT NINETEEN 107MM ROCKETS WERE FIRED AT PHNOM PENH AND POCHENTONG JANUARY 27-28. SIX OF THEM LANDED NEAR THE KHMER NAVY HEADQUARTERS BASE. THERE WAS NO DAMAGE TO POCHENTONG AS FAR AS WE KNOW. THE ATTACKS RESULTED IN ABOUT FIVE PERSONS KILLED AND ELEVEN WOUNDED.

4. THE SITUATION AT KAMPOT IN SOUTHWESTERN CAMBODIA (REFTEL) IS REPORTED TO BE STABLE. FANK FORCES THERE HAVE BEEN REINFORCED AND APPEAR CAPABLE OF CONTAINING THE THREAT POSED BY THE KC.

5. FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT DAY, THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY AROUND PHNOM PENH IN COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS DAYS WAS QUITE LOW. THE EXCEPTION CONTINUES TO BE THE 7TH DIVISION AREA NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH.
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